

Version with markings to show changes made

In the specification

This application is the U.S. national phase of International Application No. PCT/US00/16471 filed on 14 June 2000 which claims priority to a U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/139,124 filed on June 14, 1999 by Alan A. Winder, et al., the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

In the claims

1. (Amended) A method for therapeutically treating an injury using ultrasound, the method comprising the steps of
introducing an ultrasound contrast agent into a patient; and
impinging ultrasonic waves in proximity to the injury, wherein the ultrasound contrast agent facilitates in lowering the cavitation threshold to [a] an intensity level attainable by the ultrasonic waves.
2. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of maintaining the acoustic spatial average-temporal average (SATA) intensity of the ultrasonic waves from about 5 to 500 mW/cm².
11. (Amended) A kit for therapeutically treating an injury using ultrasound, the kit comprising:
an ultrasonic transducer assembly having at least one ultrasonic transducer;
an ultrasonic signal generator [positioned in] coupled to the ultrasonic transducer assembly;
a main operating unit electrically coupled to the ultrasonic signal generator for transmitting at least one signal thereto [for] activating the at least one ultrasonic transducer [for emitting ultrasonic waves]; and
an ultrasound contrast agent.
17. (Amended) The kit according to claim 11, wherein the ultrasonic signal generator includes signal generator circuitry and an internal power source connected to the signal

generator circuitry[, and the signal generator circuitry including a processor and means for generating a pulsed RF signal].

20. (Amended) A method for therapeutically treating an injury using ultrasound, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a main operating unit having an internal power source coupled to an ultrasonic transducer assembly, the ultrasonic transducer assembly includes at least one ultrasonic transducer, an ultrasonic signal generator and signal generator circuitry therein;

providing a placement module configured for receiving the ultrasonic transducer assembly and for placing the at least one ultrasonic transducer in proximity to the injury;

introducing an ultrasound contrast agent into the patient; and

exciting the at least one ultrasonic transducer to impinge ultrasonic waves at or near the injury, wherein the ultrasound contrast agent facilitates in lowering the cavitation threshold to [a] an intensity level attainable by the ultrasonic waves.

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